

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 AGR-05 /084 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD:PDTAYLOR

APPROVED BY EB:JLKATZ

ARA: MR. GRUNWALD

----- 014858

P 071331Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, EAGR, CS

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES KATZ AND GRUNWALD MET
WITH AMBASSADOR SILVA MAY 5 AT THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST TO

DISCUSS THE MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM. KATZ NOTED THAT WHILE WE
APPRECIATED THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE SUBJECT IN
COSTA RICA, WE COULD NOT ACCEPT A SITUATION IN WHICH
IMPORTS FROM A COUNTRY WITH A LARGE MEAT SUPPLY, SUCH AS
COSTA RICA, WOULD ENTER THE US UNCONTROLLED. IF THE QUOTA
TRIGGER WERE TRIPPED, THE RESULT WOULD BE A LOWER
LEVEL OF OVERALL IMPORTS, A MORE RIGID TRADE REGIME AND
THE POSSIBILITY OF ENCOURAGING A TREND TOWARD INCREASED
RESTRICTION ON OTHER TRADE. THE SHORTFALL PROVISION IS
MORE THEORETICAL THAN PRACTICAL THIS YEAR BECAUSE WE
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EXPECT NO SHORTFALL TO OCCUR. THE AUSTRALIANS AND NEW

ZEALANDERS REJECTED A REGIONAL PREFERENCE SCHEME FOR SHORTFALL ALLOCATION MAINLY FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE AND BECAUSE THE AGREEMENTS ARE VOLUNTARY WE COULD NOT IMPOSE OUR DESIRE FOR A REGIONAL PROVISION ON THEM.

2. AMBASSADOR SILVA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A REGIONAL PREFERENCE AND FOR CONTINUING USE OF THE BETTER YEAR AS BETWEEN 1973 AND 1974 AS THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS. SILVA SAID THAT DISCUSSION DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, REINFORCED BY THE EMBASSY'S AID MEMOIRE, HAD LED THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT AND CATTLEMEN TO EXPECT A LATIN AMERICA SHORTFALL PROVISION. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM FOR HIS GOVERNMENT WAS TO FIND A SOLUTION THAT WOULD MEET DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AGREEMENT WITH COSTA RICA SHOULD MAKE NO REFERENCE TO THE MANNER IN WHICH A SHORTFALL WOULD BE REALLOCATED AND ASKED FOR US ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING COSTA RICAN EXPORTS TO THIRD MARKETS. KATZ SAID WE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH COSTA RICA THAT DID NOT MENTION SHORTFALL ALLOCATION EXPLICITLY AND THAT WE WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD TO HELP COSTA RICA EXPORT MEAT TO OTHER MARKETS. WE WERE ALSO HOPEFUL THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE MINISTER FACIO VERY SOON. WE DID NOT YET HAVE A RESPONSE FROM NAIROBI TO THE REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR MINISTER FACIO TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY. SISCO

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